



# **PREF PROPELLER**

**Volume 1, Issue 12**

**March 30, 2007**

## **SUPT.'S CORNER**

**By: John George, Acting  
Superintendent**

I am pleased to submit an article in the Supt.'s Corner in Mr. Lloyd's absence this week. This week I would like to announce and further discuss new medications that will be available through commissary. Coming soon, if not already available, are three new medications. These medications are Prilosec OTC, Zantac 75, and Laratidine, which is a generic form of Claritin.

These items will replace #20816 Liquid Antacid, 12 oz. and #20988 Pepcid AC, 6 count. The Prilosec OTC will be a 14 count package for \$18.15 per package – located on line #22 of the Hygiene (02B) form. The Zantac 75 will be a 4 count package for \$ 3.13 per package – located on line #34 of the Hygiene (02B) form, and the Laratidine will be a 10 count package for \$ 2.11 per package – located on line #33 of the Hygiene (02B) form. I hope that this does not inconvenience anyone and that it does as intended in providing residents with better medical options.

## **THE NEW PREF INFORMATION AND RESOURCE/RESEARCH CENTER**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

PREF has recently opened a much-needed information and resource/research center. It is located in the Charlton School building in room #102. It is only available for use during regular working hours at this time, while other hours for usage are being considered. When visiting the center, all one needs to do is sign in at the clerks' desk right inside the door of the center, and be sure to sign out before you leave. At this particular time the information and resource/research center is limited in terms of information and material due to it being a newly functioning center. Take this into consideration when visiting the center for your information and resource/research needs.

There are computers available for use. On these computers there are programs that are helpful towards gaining an understanding about various apprenticeship programs, typing teacher programs and various others. There are also job search materials available in the center. There are resume writing materials, information on workforce centers, job application completion materials, college catalogs, financial aid information, drivers licensing information, mapping information, IDOC transition program data, business magazines, financial management information and all kinds of institutional information.

Basically, the information and resource center is where you want to go to find out what you need to know about whatever it is you want and/or need to know about on your way back into society. It is also the place to go for new arrivals to PREF. You too can and will be able to find out about all that PREF has to offer and gain a better understanding about the PREF program and how it can work best for you.

Again, this information and resource/research center is in its infant stages. Keep this in mind and hopefully sooner than later it will begin to grow. The more it grows, the more we'll be able to know. The more we know, the further we can and will be able to go.

## **INSIDE-OUT DAD'S GRADUATION**

**By: Dalton Haney, PIO**

Tuesday, March 27, 2007 marked PREF's first Inside-Out Dad's graduation ceremony. Five graduates and their families attended the graduation ceremony. These graduates received certificates for their completion of the program and visited with their loved ones.

The Inside-Out Dad's program is dedicated to helping the residents strengthen their bond with their families and children, and is facilitated by Mr. Richardson, Re-Entry Specialist III, and Ms. Pace, who volunteers at PREF.

The atmosphere of the ceremony was friendly and very accepting. Everyone in attendance seemed appreciative of the time they spent with their loved ones. Congratulations to all the graduating men. You all have wonderful families.

## **ISLAMIC COMMUNITY INVITE**

**By: Jamil-Ul-Deen Rashad, Imam**

Attention PREF residents as well as staff members, you all are invited to attend Jumah on Fridays from 12:50 until 1:50 pm and Ta'aleem on Sundays from 6:15 until 8:00 pm. Come join us as we give praise to our creator while teaching and learning from the Holy Q'uran of Mecca.

Non-Muslims, it is understood that there are misunderstandings, misconceptions and misinformation that you may have about Islam, about the practices thereof, Islamic beliefs, etc. Attending Ta'aleem can and will clear up any misconceptions that you may have, inform the uninformed and allow you to take from Ta'aleem the right information about Islam. It is the Islamic community's hope, here at PREF, that those that are interested attend.

## **EX-FELONS & SOCIETY**

**By: Robert Eldridge, Recreation Worker**

Ex-felons are arguably the most stigmatized and diverse group in all of society. The ex-felon stigma can lead to a loss of job opportunities, the right to bear arms, and disenfranchisement.

An ex-felon faces many obstacles when seeking gainful employment. Many employers have difficulties with hiring ex-felons. It is believed that an ex-felon will commit some sort of a crime just because he or she has been convicted of a crime in the past. This stigma is just not true. A person can be convicted of a drug related charge and it is automatically assumed that they will commit any type of crime at any given

moment. An employer looks at the job application and sees that the applicant is an ex-felon and automatically a red flag goes up in their head. They think that maybe they should skip over this person's application and hire someone they don't have to worry about breaking the law. They think that because the applicant is an ex-felon that person will steal from them, miss work because of a drug problem, or simply cause problems in their company. Most employers don't want to take the time to investigate the ex-felons file to see how they have progressed since they first committed their crime. They sometimes fail to see how a person has changed or how that person has educated his or herself. Because of this mindset they can miss an opportunity to hire a skilled and honest employee. Given the chance, an ex-felon can contribute to the workplace and to society in general.

Another issue that an ex-felon is faced with is that they can never own or possess any type of firearm. Because they have been found guilty of a certain crime, they are no longer able to get out of prison and protect their families. Their family is exposed to the same dangers as anyone else. Because a person has taken or sold drugs it doesn't mean that they are ruthless killers. Once they have served their sentence they should be afforded the opportunity to try and protect their family and property just like anyone else.

In some states an ex-felon cannot vote or even run for a political office. These ex-felons have lost the right to change the very laws that are aimed against them. The right to hold an elected position has been taken away.

An ex-felon gets more sanctions put on them when they get out of prison than sometimes their original sentence called

for. Society seems to always hold the past over an ex-felons head.

An ex-felon never actually gets his or her debt to society paid, even when the person serves their time they are still never going to be accepted back into society. Society needs to let go of the past and look ahead to the future.

Just because someone makes a mistake once, people shouldn't label them as a loser. Everyone makes some sort of a mistake in his or her life. Should we forever hold all mistakes against everyone? I don't think so!

## **SPORTS**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

Listed below are the scores for the PREF winter basketball tournament games played on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2007.

### **March 27, 2007**

**Game 1 – Bulls 42, Pacers 39**

**Game 2 – IU 51, Lakers 56**

### **March 29, 2007**

**Game 1 - Bulls 56, Heat 39**

**Game 2 - Suns 47, Lakers 64**

## **JUST A THOUGHT**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past.

Suggestions for The PREF Propeller should be emailed to Mr. Dalton Haney, PREF PIO, with a subject line of "PREF Propeller" or given to Mr. Dwight Cobbs, PREF PIO Clerk, of Westendorf.